

Churches Join Famine Relief Food Collection

The member churches of the Torrance Ministerial Association have joined in the drive for collecting of emergency canned food on behalf of the UNRRA. The Rev. Ronald Menmuir, of the First Christian church, is general chairman of the church committee, and receptacles will be placed in every store for packages. Churches also will have food brought on Sundays. Checks and money should be sent to the Rev. Mr. Menmuir, with checks made out to Emergency Food Collection. The kinds of foods mostly needed are condensed or evaporated milk, meat, fish, peanut butter, baby foods, fruit juices and vegetables.

NEW CITY FLOWER GARDEN EXPECTED TO BLOOM SOON

Fred Blake, city park superintendent, reports a new flower garden with annual blossoms expected within two months, has been developed, on the lawn adjacent to the Torrance City Hall. Two eucalyptus trees recently were removed near the location to afford room for the garden, which will be geometric in design with the express purpose of mass color.

Grass paths will be featured to enhance the beauty of the lawns, petunias, zinnias and snapdragons, Blake said. Other colorful plants to make their appearance in the garden are French marigolds and pentstemons. It was anticipated that the empty flower vases in the office of the city hall would soon be filled with these beautiful blossoms.

Lieut. Hansen Now In Charge Of Navy Base

The United States Navy storehouse in Torrance now is under a new officer in charge, Commander George H. Happ, having been transferred to Bethpage, Long Island, storehouse.

Lieutenant E. G. Hansen is the new officer in charge. He served both Lt. Comdr. Frederick E. Drake Jr. and Commander Happ as executive officer at the Torrance base. Lieutenant Hansen came to Torrance from the Irvington, Calif., Naval storehouse, and had served during the war with the Navy in Trinidad, British West Indies and at eastern bases.

Commander Happ's transfer to the eastern base was sudden, Lieutenant Hansen said, and he asked the lieutenant to extend to the officials and people of Torrance his thanks for their fine support and cooperation through his tour of duty here.

Assembly Of God Evangelistic Services Sunday

Evangelist and Mrs. G. Oliver Hall of North Dakota, will open a series of evangelistic services at the Assembly of God church next Sunday night at seven thirty. Although the evangelist and his wife are young people, they are of the old school; they believe in old time Bible religion and proclaim it with enthusiasm and sincerity, according to Pastor Paul H. Perry. Mr. and Mrs. Hall are talented musically and both preach. Mrs. Hall will have fifteen interesting minutes with the children and young people just prior to the service each evening. The Assembly of God church is located at 1741 Border ave. Every one is cordially invited to attend.

No. Torrance Airport To Open June 1

(Continued from Page 1-A) basic and advanced trainers, known as B-T's and A-T's, be allowed to operate off the new airport. He said the noisy army and navy trainers have no place on the private field. "If an airport caters to these 'hot-rod' of the air' with their shattering noise it will never attain the respect of the residents which is necessary for the success of any field."

The airpark, which will be the most modern on the West Coast, now has its 2,300-foot runway paved in addition to all taxiways. Total expenditures may reach \$500,000, Fox revealed, and will accommodate small planes, not to exceed 200 in number. It will employ all modern and systematic safety methods for flight patterns and taxing procedure.

Colonel Fox, a rigid adherer to air safety, announced that air character would be moulded in the youth learning to fly on this field and that back-alley operators would have no place on the new Torrance port.

The light planes which will use the field will be of the small engine type whose motors are less noisy than those of many automobiles.

With the runway and taxiways paving completed, a temporary administration building already on the field, and the foundation laid for the first hangar, the development of the airport will continue until it will be the pride of the Southland, a model airport for private use, it was said.

COST OF WATER DAMAGE TO NEECE AVENUE ASKED

At the request of the Walteria Civic Association, the City Council Tuesday night instructed the City Engineer's office to furnish an estimate of the damage, assertedly being done to Neece st., Walteria section, by water overflowing from a tank of the Quandt Pumping Co.

'NO' SCHOOL BOND VOTE URGED BOTH BY TORRANCE AND LOS ANGELES GROUPS

(Continued from Page 1-A) out that a program of \$10,000,000 is adequate at this time. Other organizations opposing the Los Angeles bond issue are the California Taxpayers Association, United Taxpayers, Inc., and the Los Angeles Citizens Budget Committee.

The Los Angeles opposition is based on seven other points. The Los Angeles Citizens' budget committee recommends defeat of the \$75,000,000 Los Angeles city school bond proposal at the polls on June 4 as being an improper method of meeting the district's housing problems for the following reasons: 1. The current \$75,000,000 school bond proposal is too big a "blank check."

2. The total interest on a \$75,000,000 serial bond issue for 25 years would approximate the cost of the program discussed last year, unless the district resorts to the dubious practice of investing balances in federal securities.

3. The problem of increasing school population now is mainly in the elementary schools. It will not reach the high schools for several years. Only \$36,000,000 of the \$75,000,000 issue is budgeted for elementary schools. 4. It is not good business to plan a ten-year school building program at today's inflated prices, now in the \$400-\$500 per square foot range.

5. The amount of information available as to how this \$75,000,000 would be spent, the citizens only recourse is to vote "NO."

FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED

The wastefulness of the "blank check" method of appropriating large sums of the taxpayers' money has been most apparent on the Federal level in the past decade. This \$75,000,000 proposal, from the facts available, which are summarized in the preceding section, has aspects of a "blank check." In weighing the Board proposal, the citizen should consider the following points:

1. No government unit should go into any large scale building program which is not absolutely necessary at this time. As school officials have stated that the majority of the building construction will be done in the second five-year period, the question is raised as to why a bond issue is necessary now.

2. A spending program extending over a ten-year period precisely the difficulty of accurately planning expenditures so far in advance. If it is at all possible for the School Board to operate on a pay-as-you-go basis for the next few years, a bond issue could then be considered.

3. A bond issue should be preceded by a carefully planned program. No such plan has been made available to the citizens. 4. Last year a pay-as-you-go plan was considered a satisfactory solution of the school housing program in place of a \$15,000,000 bond program for building purposes which was to extend over the next five-year period. Conditions have not changed enough to justify substituting a \$75,000,000 borrowing program for a \$15,000,000 housing program from current funds.

5. Interest on a \$75,000,000 serial bond issue for twenty-five years would approximate the total cost of the program discussed last year, unless the districts resorted to the dubious practice of investing balances in Federal securities.

ANALYSIS OF PROGRAM Official reports based on the \$75,000,000 proposal indicate that construction and replacement expenditures during the next five-year period will be about \$23,511,000. Allowing one-half of the ten-year expenditure program for land and for equipment, it is indicated that the Board contemplates expending about \$32,500,000 during the next five years to take care of the most urgent situations. Other statements by board officials have claimed that much greater amounts up to \$56,000,000 are urgently needed. The total allocated up to May 7 on the ten-year building program is \$59,976,000, and school officials state that the major portion of this amount is not to be spent until five years after the bonds are voted.

It is also difficult to justify the more than doubling of contemplated expenditures for the next five-year period over the five-year program which was discussed last year. Building costs are estimated to have gone up in the area between \$90 and \$95 per square foot since January 1, 1946, depending upon the type of building, the availability of labor, and other factors. According to school district estimates, it is expected that enrollments will increase in 1946-47 by 3.4 percent over the enrollment for 1945-46. Doubling the cost of the capital outlay program for the next five years neither is justified on the basis of enrollment increase nor increase in construction costs. The question is raised as to whether or not the proposed program takes into consideration the cycle of building costs which will undoubtedly turn down before the completion of this program.

According to school officials, the School Board is considering investment in unused bond balances in Federal government securities since only a small amount can be spent in the early years of the contemplated expenditure program. It is claimed that this procedure will reduce the total cost of the bond issue to the taxpayer. Such procedure is questioned on the ground that it is not the function of the school districts to be in the finance business.

It is good judgment for any organization confronted with the need for a large capital expansion to survey its activities to see if adjustments can be made to hold additional expenditures to a minimum. Government agencies too frequently escape the necessity of this evaluation process and seek to solve problems by adding layer after layer of expense.

SUMMARY

A need for additional housing for elementary school children in Los Angeles exists; this will progress through the secondary schools in future years. Fulfilling this need will require the expenditure of considerable money. However, it does not appear wise for the school districts to go into unnecessary competition with home building, private construction, or other government organizations in an extensive building program at this time. A bond proposal with a ten-year expenditure program is considered an unusually long one. During the ten-year program the membership of the Board of Education could change several times. While it is impossible to make definite calculations of debt services, in view of the lack of specific plans available, the taxpayers may be confronted with a tax rate increase of 21c per \$100 of assessed valuation for the first year if the entire issue is sold. In line with present inflationary tendencies, a major increase in current operating costs may also bring the tax rate up considerably.

One reason advanced for the large amount requested is the

MAYWOOD FIRM LOW BIDDER ON TANK PAINT JOB

Action Industrial Paint Service, Maywood, was low bidder on the proposal to paint the high water tower of Municipal Water District No. 1.

The company bid \$2,100, and others were hundreds of dollars higher. They were referred to Manager William Stanger and City Attorney J. E. McCall.

inflationary condition and the resultant high cost of equipment and labor, land and material. Passage of bond issues add to inflationary trends. The fact that detailed schedules have been unavailable for proposed expenditures indicates inadequate planning. If the School Board does not contemplate an expenditure of any large amount until five years from now, the question is raised, why not try to get along on a pay-as-you-go basis for the next few years while studying the advisability of a smaller bond issue? The Los Angeles Board of Education by June 30, 1945 had accumulated a total of \$2,817,000 to be used for capital outlay purposes. If the \$2,817,000 is to be added to the \$75,000,000 building expansion program and if the \$1,140,187 budgeted for new buildings this year is another addition to the building program, then \$3,957,187 added to the bond total would make a program of \$78,957,187.

The facts available, concerning the \$75,000,000 bond proposal are inadequate to assure the need or timeliness of the proposal.

This summarization of information available on the Los Angeles School District's \$75,000,000 bond proposal was prepared for use by the Los Angeles Citizens' Budget Committee, in conjunction with other more detailed studies made available to citizen groups. Copies of such studies are available on request.

Johnson & Co. Plan Building Of 48 Homes

Thomas A. Johnson and Co. have completed plans for the immediate building of 48 new two and three-bedroom homes on the 10-acre tract at 190th st. and Arlington ave. It has been announced by William H. Tolson, former mayor of Torrance and engaged in the realty and insurance business, who will handle sale of the homes.

The tract will be improved immediately with necessary sidewalks, curbs, streets and utilities, and construction is due to start on the new homes within a month.

The company, Tolson said, has on hand sufficient materials to complete the project.

Thomas A. Johnson and Co. are located at 3029 Exposition boulevard.

INCREASE IN DOG TAG FEE ORDERED BY COUNTY BOARD

On motion of Supervisor Raymond V. Darby, the recommendation of the chief administrative officer that the license fee on male and spayed female dogs be raised to \$2 per year in county territory was approved by the Board of Supervisors at its Tuesday meeting, and county counsel instructed to draft the necessary amendment to the ordinance to put such recommendation into effect.

CAMERA CLUB

The Torrance Camera club will conduct a regular meeting at the home of Bill Husband, 1733 Cabrillo ave., June 4, at 7:30 p.m. Models for the local camera clickers will be Pat Allen

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Torrance Food Center

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